

## FAITHBUILDERS

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." - Matthew 5:6*

*God welcomes honest inquiry regarding Himself, His Son Jesus Christ and His will for mankind. He's given us the Bible to satisfy our thirst. FaithBuilders intends only to direct the inquirer to Bible-based answers and allow God to impress the seeker's heart. The series is published by the San Marcos church of Christ in San Marcos, Texas.*

### San Marcos church of Christ

*Our goal in worship and daily living is to be simply Christians and to pursue diligently the unity desired by the Lord Jesus Christ and prescribed in the New Testament.*

We meet at

2660 Hunter Road  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Sunday

9:45 am - *Bible Study*  
10:45 am - *Worship*  
2:00 pm - *Worship*

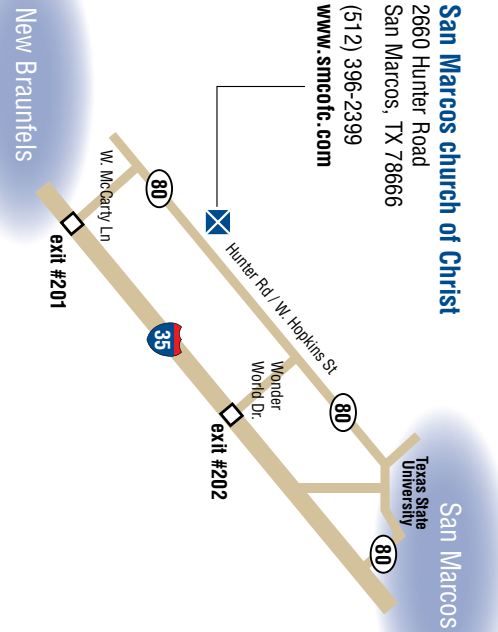
Wednesday

7:30 pm - *Bible Study*

Please contact us at:

(512) 396-2399  
[www.smcofc.com](http://www.smcofc.com)

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## FAITHBUILDERS

# 1

*"So then faith comes by hearing  
and hearing by the word of God"*



Why people give up on "church?"

How do we know about God?

What's the Bible all about?



## Let's Be Just Christians!

by George Slover

As I talk with people from place to place, I find the common problem of religious indifference. Many people say, "Well, I used to belong to 'such and such' denomination, but I quit." When asked why they quit, the usual reply is that there is too much religious confusion and division in our world today. If you find yourself with this problem, then there is good news for you. God has an answer!

In the New Testament, we read this prayer of Jesus: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20,21) Jesus knew that if his disciples were united the world would believe in Him, but if they were divided the world would be filled with skepticism and indifference. The answer is to be ONE IN JESUS!

What a great witness it would be for Jesus if all believers belonged to the same church and were one in Him! Did you know that when the church of Jesus Christ began that it was just that way? Jesus promised before His death, burial, and resurrection that He would build HIS (only one) church

***"The answer is to be ONE IN JESUS!"***

(Ephesians 4:4) or ONE church (Ephesians 1:22,23), and Paul was devoted to one "way" (Acts 24:10-15)! Instead of calling themselves by man-made names that divide, the disciples were called Christians (Acts 11:26; I Peter 4:16).

If we are to be ONE IN JESUS, we must imitate the pattern. LET'S BE JUST CHRISTIANS!

***"I quit ... there's too much religious confusion and division in our world"***

## Getting to Know God

by Jamie DeLong

In response to God's command, given through Moses, to let the children of Israel go Pharaoh asked, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" (Exodus 5:2) Pharaoh soon found out who the Lord was as God revealed His power through the plagues that afflicted Egypt. Things have not changed much since the time of Moses and Pharaoh as today many still ask, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?" And just as God revealed Himself then, so He has revealed Himself through the ages so that all may know Him.

How, it may be asked, has God revealed Himself? The answer is that God has revealed Himself in two ways. The first way may be called natural revelation. The inspired apostle Paul wrote, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead..." (Romans 1:20) The psalmist praises God saying, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) Man marvels at the grandeur of the universe. As we consider the vastness of space and the intricacies of the human body we can only be awed by the great Mind that designed and created it all. Truly we must sing "How Great Thou Art!"

But God has not left us to guess at who He is or what He desires for us. God has also revealed Himself in a more direct way—through

His inspired word. In the beginning He spoke directly to man instructing him concerning His desires for man and the relationship man was to have with God. Later, God revealed His will through inspired men who spoke and wrote God's words for all to hear.

This revealed word is the Bible. In it God reveals Himself as the Creator, the Father, the Lord and the Savior. In it we find the answer to the question, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?"

***God reveals Himself through His creation and His inspired Word***

## Summary of the Bible

by David Watson

We have all heard of the Bible, but what is it, really? How did we get it, and what is the overall message?

The Bible is a collection of 66 different books written by about 40 different authors from roughly 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100. The oldest 39 books are collectively called the "Old Testament", and the latest 27 books are the "New Testament". The authors were "inspired" by God, which means God told them what to write. The Bible proves its own authenticity by the archeological, scientific, historical, and prophetic statements it makes that are all true.

Salvation is the central theme of the Bible. It contains everything God wants man to know about how to be saved from an eternal Hell after the end of the world (John 12:47-48).

As a whole, the Old Testament follows the history of a man named Abraham and his descendants, called "Hebrews". It focuses on the Hebrews because eventually Jesus Christ would be born from them. Man's need for salvation is revealed, and the first covenant God made with man (the Hebrews) is described.

***The Bible contains everything God wants man to know about how to be saved***

In the New Testament story, Jesus is born and endures a death, burial, and resurrection. By doing these things, He becomes the blood sacrifice that completely satisfies God so that men do not have to go to Hell for their sins (Hebrews 5:9).

Afterward, Jesus ascends into Heaven to be King, or Head, of the church, which was established a short time later. He appointed certain men to reveal the rest of God's truth.

The teachings of Jesus and those inspired men make up the new covenant or New Testament. It is permanent, and was "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3), and took the place of the old (Colossians 2:14). It describes the laws men must follow (Philippians 2:12) to inherit Heaven after the day of Judgment, when we all will be held accountable (Hebrews 4:13).